



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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17 MARCH 1966

~~TOP SECRET~~

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DAILY BRIEF
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1. Indonesia

Military and other officials in Djakarta are pressuring General Suharto to remove Sukarno once and for all. These people were shocked by Sukarno's announcement yesterday that he alone was responsible for the composition of the cabinet. They had assumed that Sukarno would give in to their demands for cabinet changes.

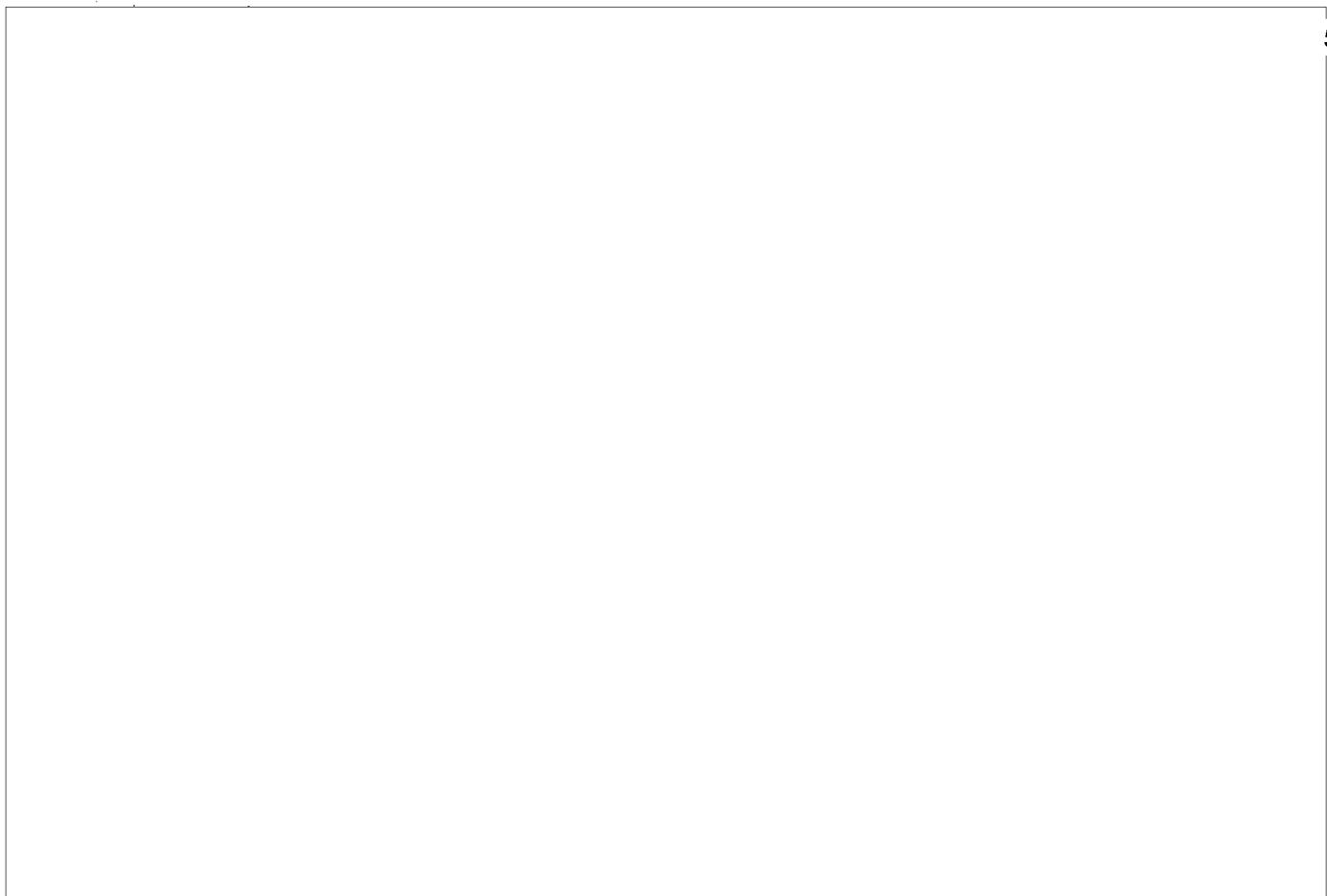
Popular demonstrations are continuing and seem to be well coordinated. Students are now said to be urging government employees to go on strike until the cabinet is purged. Ambassador Green reports that some pro-Communist cabinet members may already have been picked up.

2. Cambodia

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3. North Vietnam

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4. South Vietnam

Saigon was quiet today, although there were indications of behind-the-scenes political activity, including a meeting between Chief of State Thieu and Buddhist leaders:

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Meanwhile, Thi is continuing his tour of the I Corps area and appears increasingly to be playing for public sympathy. No disorders have attended any of his public appearances, however, and this afternoon he urged a crowd of perhaps 20,000 in Hué to place the national interest above individual ones.

Thi is remaining overnight in Hué but his further plans are unclear.

5. Soviet Union

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6. Uganda

Three weeks have passed since Prime Minister Obote masterminded a coup on his own behalf; Uganda's political structure has been deteriorating uninterruptedly ever since.

Obote has now managed to alienate just about every political and tribal element in the country. The army and police still follow his orders, but their loyalty is probably only on a day-to-day basis. The embassy believes that Obote will soon be removed unless he does something to broaden his political base.

7. Ghana

Nkrumah has started to pull together a group to subvert the new Ghanaian regime. [redacted]

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8. Soviet Union

Soviet intellectuals and "liberal" Communists in a number of countries are fearful that Moscow intends to come out with a somewhat more favorable line on Stalin at the Soviet party congress which opens later in the month. The treatment of Stalin has been a hot issue for more than ten years; another embarrassing reappraisal could produce real fireworks throughout the bloc.

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